

CHECKLIST OF VICTORIAN DRAGONFLIES (INSECTA : ODONATA)

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An annotated checklist is given for the dragonfly fauna currently known from Victoria. The fauna comprises 74 species: 26 Zygoptera and 48 Epiproctophora (formerly Anisoptera). New distribution records and taxonomic nomenclatural changes since 1974 are detailed.

SINCE the publication of a checklist of Victorian dragonflies by Hutchinson (1975) a number of nomenclatural changes and additional distribution records have been made. Hutchinson's list was based on that of Watson (1974) to which he added his own observation of a specimen of *Austrolestes aridus* (Tillyard). The species which he lists as 'Caliagrion lyelli' is a typographical error for the two species *Caliagrion billinghami* (Martin) and *Coenagrion lyelli* (Tillyard).

Watson (1977) published a supplement which added Hutchinson's *Austrolestes aridus* record and one of *Trapezostigma loewii* (Kaup) to the Victorian fauna. In his key to larvae of south-eastern Australia, Hawking (1986) provided a checklist of adults based on the nomenclature of Watson (1974), covering 'Victoria and eastern South Australia and new material ... from throughout the River Murray catchment' and adding a number of new records. The Odonata volume of the Zoological Catalogue (Houston & Watson 1988) recognised the family Protoneuridae, some genus name changes and new records. Watson et al. (1991) gave the most comprehensive Australian review of the Order Odonata since that of Fraser (1960), describing new species and providing keys to species, distribution data and ecological notes. Major phylogenetic studies have been undertaken recently, particularly in Germany, America and Australia, and Hawking & Theischinger (1999) provided a new Australian checklist recognising these works, particularly the familial and higher level classification of Bechly (1996). Hawking & Theischinger (1999) recognise that Bechly's analyses are not universally accepted with the caveat that 'it is not, however, our intention to support or criticise'. Similarly, this checklist uses their classification purely as a framework to record those species known to have been found within Victoria to date and the nomenclatural changes that have occurred since 1974.

CHANGES TO FAMILIAL NOMENCLATURE

Protoneuridae

Hutchinson (1975), following Watson (1974), retained the genera *Isosticta* Selys and *Oristicta* Tillyard in the family Protoneuridae. Fraser (1960) recognised two subfamilies, Protoneurinae (containing *Nososticta* Hagen) and Isostictinae, and Hawking (1986) acknowledged this within his key to the larvae. Watson & Theischinger (1984) still maintained these two subfamilies but they were accorded familial rank by Davies (1981) and subsequent Australian authors have followed him. Bechly (1996) regards the Isostictinae as a subfamily of Protoneuridae but Hawking & Theischinger (1999) retain it at family level.

ANISOPTERA

Traditionally three suborders of Odonata have been recognised: Zygoptera, Anisoptera and the Anisozygoptera with extant species only in Japan and Nepal. Bechly (1996) renamed the Anisozygoptera to Epiophlebiidae and combined it with the Anisoptera to form a new suborder Epiproctophora, used by Hawking & Theischinger (1999) and, therefore, in this summary of Victorian species.

Austropetaliidae

Victoria's only representative of the family Austropetaliidae is *Austropetalia tonyana* Theischinger. At the time of Hutchinson's (1975) checklist it was still considered to be a member of the Aeshnidae but Houston & Watson (1988) placed it in Neopetaliidae, following Davies (1981). The family Neopetaliidae was restricted to Australia, New Zealand and Chile. Relocation of the genus *Neopetalia* Cowley to the Libelluloidea by

Carle & Louton (1994) caused them to erect a new family, Austropetalidae, which contains the Australian species.

Aeshnidae

One of Bechly's (1996) revisions was to remove a number of genera from the family Aeshnidae to a new family Telephlebiidae. The effect for Victorian species was to retain only *Aeshna brevistyla* (Rambur) and *Hemianax papuensis* (Burmeister) in Aeshnidae. Hawking & Theischinger (1999) agree that the split is consistent with a major character state in their key: the larval epiproct is concave at the tip for Aeshnidae but pointed in Telephlebiidae.

Corduliidae

Watson (1974) recognised Synthemidae as a separate family from the Corduliidae, as did Hutchinson (1975). Davies (1981) retained it as the family Synthemistidae, but Theischinger & Watson (1984) relegated it to subfamilial status as Synthemistinae within Corduliidae.

Major changes have occurred with the division of the former family Corduliidae. Of the new families, those found in Victoria are the Synthemistidae, Austrocorduliidae, Cordulephyidae and Hemicorduliidae. These groupings are not inconsistent with the field appearance of the relevant species.

CHECKLIST

Order Odonata

Suborder Zygoptera

Family Hemiphlebiidae

Hemiphlebia mirabilis Selys 1

Family Synlestidae

Synlestes weyersii Selys 2

[*Synlestes tillyardi* Martin] 2

Family Lestidae

Anstrolestes analis (Rambur)

Anstrolestes annulosus (Selys)

Anstrolestes aridus (Tillyard) 3

Anstrolestes eingulatus (Burmeister)

Anstrolestes io (Selys)

Anstrolestes leda (Selys)

Anstrolestes psyche (Hagen)

Family Megapodagrionidae

Austroargiolestes calcearis (Fraser) 4

Austroargiolestes icteromelas (Selys) 4

Griscargiolestes eboracens (Tillyard) 5

Griscargiolestes intermedius (Tillyard) 5

Family Protoneuridae

Nasosticta solida (Hagen)

Family Isostictidae

Labidiosticta vallisii (Fraser) 6

[*Rhadinosticta banksi* (Tillyard)] 8

Rhadinosticta simplex (Martin) 7

Family Coenagrionidae

Anstroagrion watsoni Lieftinek 9

Anstrocnemis splendida (Martin)

Calagrion billinghami (Martin)

Coenagrion lyelli (Tillyard)

Isehnura aurora (Brauer)

Isehnura heterosticta (Burmeister)

Pseudagrion auracronum Tillyard 10

Xanthagrion erythronurum (Selys)

Family Diphlebiidae (formerly Amphipterygidae)

Diphlebia lestooides (Selys)

Diphlebia nymphoides Tillyard

Suborder Epiproctophora (formerly Anisoptera)

Family Austropetalidae (formerly part of

Neopetalidae)

Anstrapetalia tonyana Theischinger 11

Family Telephlebiidae (formerly part of

Aeshnidae)

[*Acanthaeschna victoria* Martin] 15

Anstroaeschna atrata Martin 12

Anstroaeschna flavomaculata Tillyard

Anstroaeschna incrimis Martin 13

[*Anstroaeschna longissima* (Martin)]

Anstroaeschna multipunctata (Martin)

Anstroaeschna parvistigma Selys

Anstroaeschna pulchra Tillyard 13

Anstroaeschna subapicalis Theischinger 14

Anstroaeschna unicornis (Martin) 13

Dendraeschna conspersa (Tillyard) 16

Nataeschna sagittata (Martin)

Spinaeschna tripunctata (Martin) 17

Telephlebia brevicauda Tillyard

Family Aeshnidae

Aeshna brevistyla (Rambur)

Hemianax papuensis (Burmeister)

Family Gomphidae

Antipodogomphus acolythus (Martin)

Austrogomphus angelorum Tillyard 18

Anstragamphus australis Dale

Austrogomphus cornutus Watson 19

Austrogomphus guerini (Rambur)

Austrogomphus oelracens (Selys)

Hemigomphus gouldii (Selys)

Hemigomphus heteroelytus Selys 20

Family Synthemistidae (formerly part of

Corduliidae)

Archaeosynthemis maerostigma orientalis

(Hagen) 21

Ensynthemis brevistyla (Selys)

Ensynthemis guttata (Selys)

<i>Eusynthemis tillyardi</i> Theischinger	22	4. All Victorian species in the family Megapodagrionidae, at the time of Hutchinson's (1975) checklist, were considered to be in the genus <i>Argiolestes</i> . In a review of the genus Theischinger & O'Farrell (1986) resurrected the name <i>Austroargiolestes</i> , and <i>A. calcaris</i> and <i>A. icterouelas</i> were included in it, the others remaining in <i>Argiolestes</i> .
<i>Eusynthemis virgula</i> (Selys)		
<i>Parasyntemis regina</i> (Selys)	23	
<i>Synthemis enstalaeta</i> (Burmeister)		
Family Austrocorduliidae (formerly part of Corduliidae)		
<i>Apocordulia maerops</i> Watson	24	
<i>Anstrocordulia refracta</i> Tillyard	25	
Family Cordulephyidae (formerly part of Corduliidae)		
<i>Cordulephya pygmaea</i> Selys		
Family Hemicorduliidae (formerly part of Corduliidae)		
<i>Hemieordulia australiae</i> (Rambur)		
[<i>Hemieordulia novaezollaudiae</i>]	26	
<i>Hemieordulia tau</i> (Selys)		
<i>Procordulia jaeksoniensis</i> (Rambur)		
Family Libellulidae		
<i>Anstrothemis nigrescens</i> (Martin)		
<i>Crocothemis nigrifrons</i> (Kirby)	25	
<i>Diplacodes bipunctata</i> (Brauer)		
<i>Diplacodes haematodes</i> (Burmeister)		
<i>Diplacodes melanopsis</i> (Martin)		
<i>Nannophlebia risi</i> Tillyard	28	
<i>Nannophya australis</i> Brauer	29	
<i>Nannophya dalei</i> (Tillyard)		
<i>Orthetrum caledonicum</i> (Brauer)		
<i>Orthetrum villosorittatum</i> (Brauer)		
<i>Pantala flavescens</i> (Fabricius)	30	
<i>Trapezostigma loewii</i> (Kaup)	31	
		5. <i>Argiolestes griseus</i> had been divided into a number of subspecies, primarily by Tillyard (1912). Watson et al. (1991) considered four of these to be specifically distinct, the Victorian members being <i>Argiolestes eboracus</i> and <i>A. interuedius</i> . Theischinger (1998) divided the Australian species previously in the genus <i>Argiolestes</i> into three genera, those in the <i>A. griseus</i> complex becoming <i>Griseargiolestes</i> .
		6. In a revision of the Isostictidae, Watson et al. (1991) erected the new genus <i>Labidiosticta</i> for <i>Oristicta vallisi</i> .
		7. Watson, in Watson et al. (1991), in his revision of the Isostictidae transferred the Australian species of <i>Isosticta</i> to a new genus <i>Rhadiosticta</i> .
		8. <i>Rhadiosticta banksi</i> (as <i>Isosticta banksi</i>) was listed by Watson (1974), and therefore Hutchinson (1975) and Hawking (1986), as occurring in Victoria. Houston & Watson (1988) do not list it for Victoria but Watson et al. (1991) do, with a question mark against the entry. Except for this doubtful Victorian record the distribution is south-eastern Queensland, north-eastern Queensland, Cape York Peninsula, 'Top End' Northern Territory and the Kimberley region of Western Australia. Hawking & Theischinger (1999) do not include it their checklist for New South Wales and it is highly unlikely to have been found in Victoria.
		9. After viewing the type of <i>Pseudagrion cyane</i> Selys, Lieftinck (1982) recognised that it was synonymous with the Western Australian species <i>Austroagrion coeruleum</i> Tillyard, thus requiring a new name for the eastern species, <i>Austroagrion watsoni</i> . Hutchinson (1975) and Watson (1974) predated this change but Hawking (1986) lists both <i>A. watsoni</i> and <i>A. cyane</i> , the latter only from south-eastern South Australia. Houston & Watson (1988) and Watson et al. (1991) recognise it from that region.
		10. Hawking (1986) adds <i>Pseudagrion aureofrons</i> to the Victorian list and this is maintained by subsequent authors. It is very common in the Ovens, Campaspe and Broken rivers (Hawking, pers. comm. 1999).

DISCUSSION

Paragraph numbering follows the notes shown in the Checklist table.

1. In spite of its type locality being given as Port Denison (now Bowen, Queensland) *Hemiphlebia mirabilis* Selys has long been considered to be endemic to Victoria. However, Trueman et al. (1992) recorded it from north-east Tasmania and Endersby (1993) recorded its discovery on Flinders Island.

2. *Syolestes weyersii* and *S. tillyardi* were recognised as good species in all Australian references until Watson et al. (1991) who treated *tillyardi* (and *nigrescens* from the Sydney region) as subspecies of *S. weyersii*.

3. Hutchinson (1975) reported one sighting (presumably his own) from the Big Desert as the only known occurrence of *Austrolestes aridus* in Victoria. Subsequently, Hawking (1994) recorded it from Middle Creek, 5 km SE of Wodonga (September 1988).

11. Theischinger (1995a) considered the specimens of *Austropetalia patricia* from the Blue Mountains to be specifically different from those inhabiting the southern highlands, which includes Victorian specimens. He named the southerly group *A. tonyana* but acknowledged that more material is required to clarify the status of populations from southern Victoria. Carle (1996) also recognised two forms of *A. patricia* and he raised the name *A. victoriae*, but the distribution patterns show sympatry and differ from those of Theischinger (1995a). Lohmann (1996) considered *A. victoria* to be a synonym of *A. tonyana*.
12. Although Liefstinck (1951) attempted to show that *Acanthaeschna* had priority over *Anstroaeschna* for the known species in this genus, Allbrook & Watson (1978) studied new material of *Acanthaeschna victoria* and found it not to be congeneric. As *A. victoria* was the type species for *Acanthaeschna* they resurrected *Anstroaeschna* for the other species.
13. After reviewing the history of *Austroaeschna* nomenclature Theischinger (1982) realised that '... what has been called *longissima* is really *unicornis*, and what has been called *unicornis* is really *pulchra*'. So, the *A. longissima* in Hutchinson's (1975) list disappears and *A. pulchra* is added. All subsequent authors agree.
14. Theischinger (1982) separated a new species, *Anstroaeschna subapicalis*, from specimens previously identified as *A. atrata*.
15. Although Martin (1901) did not list *Acanthaeschna victoria* for Victoria he did so in Martin (1909) (*vide* Hutchinson 1975). Watson (1974) queried the Victorian record and no author since has included it in the Victorian fauna. Hawking & Theischinger (1999) have only two records for the 20th Century and give as its distribution northern New South Wales and southern Queensland. It is highly likely that Martin's (1909) record was an error.
16. The first reference to *Dendroaeschna conspersa* as a Victorian species is Houston & Watson (1988), based on specimens of larvae collected in 1983 and 1985. Hawking (1991) documents the discovery.
17. Theischinger (1982) moved *Anstroaeschna tripunctata* into a new genus *Spinaeschna*.
18. Hawking (1986) includes *Austrogomphus angeli* in his list but as it covers 'adults from Victoria and eastern South Australia ...' he is quoting Watson's (1974) south-eastern South Australia locality (Hawking, pers. comm. 1999). Houston & Watson (1988) and Watson et al. (1991) quote it directly from Victoria but Watson (1991) notes that it has been found only in the Murray River, listing specimens from New South Wales—Wentworth and Corowa.
- The species was named by Tillyard (1913) in recognition of the two brothers (S. & F. Angel) who discovered it. Consequently Peterson (1993) emended the specific epithet to the plural form of *angelorum*. Peterson (1993) also states that only twenty adult specimens have been collected to date.
19. Hutchinson (1975) listed *Austrogomphus* sp. 'c' following Watson (1974) who included a number of undescribed genera and species using code letters. The Zoological Catalogue (Houston & Watson 1988) referred to *Anstrogonomphus doddi* Tillyard as *Austrogomphus* sp. 'c' but Watson (1991) described it as a new species *Austrogomphus corutus*. Watson (op. cit.: 393) discusses the confusion between *A. doddi* and *A. corutus*.
20. Houston & Watson (1988) include *Hemigomphus heteroclytus* as a Victorian species as do Watson et al. (1991), noting its similar appearance to *H. gouldii*. Watson (1991) gives precise collection localities for both species.
21. From a major phylogenetic study, Carle (1995) placed three species of *Synthemis*, including *Synthemis macrostigma*, in a new genus *Archaeosynthemis*. Hawking & Theischinger (1999) state that the eastern Australian *A. macrostigma orientalis* is possibly a distinct species.
22. Whilst unravelling the *Eusynthemis guttata* group of sibling species Theischinger (1995b) raised *Metathemis guttata* (Sclys) var. *pallida* (Tillyard 1910) to full species status and named it *Eusynthemis tillyardi*.
23. In the same study in which he named the genus *Archaeosynthemis*, Carle (1995) recognised *Synthemis regina* as monotypic at generic level and placed it in a new genus as *Parasynthemis regina*.
24. *Apocordulia macrops* was raised from larvae to maturity by Watson (1980) and named in a new genus and species. Their crepuscular flight times are probably the cause of them remaining unrecognised for so long. It is now known to occur in small stretches of the Broken, Campaspe and Loddon rivers and also in Gippsland (Hawking, pers. comm. 1999).

25. Thieschinger & Watson (1984) did not list any Victorian localities for *Austrocordulia refracta* but Watson (1974) includes it in southern New South Wales. Hawking (1986) records it from Gippsland and subsequently Watson et al. (1991) and Hawking & Thieschinger (1999) list it from Victoria.

26. Watson (1974) included *Hemicordulia novae-hollandiae* in the Victorian fauna, marked with a question mark. Hutchinson (1975) followed him but commented that the species is known from one imperfect female and is of doubtful specific status. Fraser (1960) is the source of the comment and Houston & Watson (1988) give for its distribution 'Australia, no known locality'.

27. Hawking (1986) records *Crocothemis nigrifrons* from eastern Gippsland and has now found it in billabongs in northeast Victoria (Hawking, pers. comm. 1999). Hawking & Thieschinger (1999) have a category VIC in their distribution list but none of the intervening authors (eg. Houston & Watson 1988; Watson et al. 1991) have recognised it for the state.

28. *Nannophlebia risi* was added to the Victorian fauna by Hawking (1986) from records from the Kiewa River and Hawking & Thieschinger (1999) have a map showing a collection locality from the Murray River near Jingellie.

29. The first reference to *Nannophlebia australis* as a Victorian species is that of Houston & Watson (1988).

30. *Pantala flavescens* is the most recent addition to the Victorian list (Hawking & Ingram 1994) from larvae which are probably the progeny of migratory adults.

31. Hutchinson (1977) gives the first record of *Trapezostigma loewii* from Victoria. Watson (1977) incorporated this observation into his first supplement and Hawking (1986) listed it from billabongs in northeast Victoria.

SUMMARY

Hutchinson (1975) listed 64 species of Odonata for Victoria (26 Zygoptera and 38 Anisoptera) but the total now stands at 74 (26 Zygoptera and 48 Epiroctophora). The changes for the Zygoptera are due to one new sighting (*Pseudagrion aureofrons*), a net gain of one from taxon splitting (*Argiolestes griseus* revealed *Griseargiolestes eboracis* and *G. intermedius*), one species was lost by taxon lumping (*Synlestes tillyardi*), and one was an incorrect

record (*Isosticta banksi*). For the Epiroctophora, 9 new sightings occurred (*Austrocordulia refracta*, *Austrogomphus angelorum*, *Crocothemis nigrifrons*, *Dendroaeschua conspersa*, *Hemigomphus heteroclytus*, *Nannophlebia risi*, *Nannophya australis*, *Pantala flavescens* and *Trapezostigma loewii*), one new species was discovered (*Apocordulia macrops*), two species arose from taxon splitting (*Austroaeschua subapicalis* and *Eusynthemis tillyardi*), and there were two incorrect or unsubstantiated records (*Austroaeschua victoria* and *Hemicordulia novae-hollandiae*).

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